

SOVIET DISOWNS AN EROTIC NOVEL

Magazine Says Book May
Be a German Forgery

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Feb. 5—A Soviet literary weekly has suggested that a pornographic book widely advertised in the United States as "the first modern erotic novel from the Soviet underground" might be a West German forgery.

In one of the first comments in the controlled Soviet press on the novel "Moscow Nights," the weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta said it had received a letter from a West German reader of the book attributing it to Heinz Konsalik, a German writer.

"As a matter of fact," the weekly went on, "even a cursory examination of this pornopus seems to indicate that this is a likely assumption."

"Moscow Nights," published by Olympia Press and scheduled to be made into a motion picture, is attributed to a Soviet underground writer who uses the pseudonym Vlas Tenin.

The newspaper said that there appeared to be similarities in style and content between "Moscow Nights" and a book by Mr. Konsalik titled "Love Nights in the Taiga." The taiga is the name given to the forest of northern Russia and Siberia.

It was the second time that the Soviet weekly sought to disavow any connection between the Soviet Union and a pornographic work abroad. Last month it tried to show that a comic strip called "Oktyabrina," published in London, was a forgery.

Authentic, Says Publisher

Maurice Girodias, president of Olympia Press, said in New York that he had never before heard of Heinz Konsalik and insisted that "Moscow Nights" was written by "a Soviet citizen now living in Russia."

The novel, he said, will be published next month in its original Russian by Olympia Press, Tel Aviv, one of the 10 international companies specializing in pornographic works that Mr. Girodias has founded in recent years. A Hebrew edition will be issued simultaneously.

The publisher said he was surprised at the suggestion of Literaturnaya Gazeta that the novel was written by a West German since previous Soviet attacks had never questioned the manuscript's authenticity. A review released by the Moscow Press agency Novosti after the Italian edition of "Moscow Nights" appeared last August said: "It is plain that the author of this book is a deeply amoral person, who hates his people and the land which nourishes him."